

## Gentry, Nathan

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**From:** Kadeli, Lek  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2013 7:22 AM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Deputy Administrator; KeyesFleming, Gwen; Fritz, Matthew; Reynolds, Thomas  
**Cc:** Trovato, Ramona; Kavlock, Robert; Blackburn, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** ORD Topics

### IRIS Enhancements

We plan to announce the IRIS enhancements as early as wed July 31st and are working closely with OEA on a rollout plan. The IRIS enhancements will improve the scientific integrity of assessments; improve the productivity of the IRIS Program; and increase transparency so issues are identified and debated early in the process.

We will brief the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy about the literature search and evidence tables for ETBE (ethyl tertiary butyl ether), T-butanol, and RDX that are part of the development of the draft IRIS assessments for those chemicals, anticipating that the literature search and evidence tables for all three chemicals will be released shortly thereafter.

We will also brief the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy on the revised draft IRIS assessments for 1,2,3-,1,2,4- and 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene and ammonia, anticipating that both revised draft assessments will be sent to the SAB's Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee who will release them for public comment and peer review.

### Hydraulic Fracturing

#### Technical Workshop

On Tuesday July 30th, we will host a Technical Workshop on Case Studies to Assess Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources. The workshop is by invitation only and will have approximately 40 subject matter experts plus EPA staff. The names of participants, materials and presentations from the workshops will be posted on EPA's hydraulic fracturing study website following the workshops. In addition, EPA will host a follow-up public webinar for those who were not able to attend the workshops.

### NY Times Op-ed

An editor for the op-ed page of The New York Times asked us to verify an op-ed they received on hydraulic fracturing saying that EPA is currently studying fracturing and its impact on drinking water, and that the study won't be completed for 2 years. The editor declined to name the author but noted that the he is a critic and that they plan to publish sometime early during the week of July 29th. OEA sent the editor a draft statement and links to the progress report, the HF study web page, and the web page on the case studies.

### Small Business Innovation Research

As early as Wednesday July 30th, we expect to issue a press release announcing more than \$2 million to seven small businesses for the development of sustainable technologies as part of EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Last year, 25 research proposals from small businesses were awarded Phase I contracts of \$80,000 to investigate the projects' feasibility and potential applications. Following a competitive peer-review process, seven Phase I recipients are now being awarded Phase II contracts for up to \$300,000, supporting their initial technology development and moving them towards further commercialization of their technology.

Nanomech, an EPA SBIR award recipient in 2005, has received R&D Magazine's R&D 100 Award for its TuffTek® coating technology for environmentally friendly cutting tool manufacture. Nanomech's TuffTek® technology improves the heat

resistance, precision and wear resistance of dry machining cutting tools. NanoMech's CEO Jim Phillips referred to this award as the 'Oscar of Innovation'. This places NanoMech's TuffTek® technology in the top 100 groundbreaking innovations of 2013.

#### Human Studies and PM2.5

Detroit News Online wrote a story about an EPA funded University of Michigan PM2.5 study stating that U of M's Dr. Robert Brook is being sued by Steve Milloy for conducting illegal human experiments. The article quotes the Administrator when she was OAR AA saying "Studies demonstrate an association between premature mortality and fine particulate pollution at the lowest levels measured in the relevant studies, levels that are significantly below" existing Clean Air Act standards. "These studies have not observed a level at which premature mortality effects do not occur." In addition, the article claims that Dr. Brook says that "while he has received EPA approval to conduct more testing — he is not going to conduct further experiments, though he says it has nothing to do with Milloy's complaint. "I'm not going to do (these tests) because I don't believe in exposing people," says Brook. "I've shown PM2.5 is bad for you." The North Carolina NBC affiliate that has been airing stories on this topic will likely run another story based on the Detroit News Online story. We have been told that Dr. Brook's comments were mischaracterized